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THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Valero Volunteers announce Aruba Way Fun Walk/Run 2011 to benefit Aruba Autism Foundation



Dilma Arends of FAA, seated in center with at right, Armin Solognier of CMB and Valero Volunteers

Aruba Way board members and Valero Volunteers joined Valero Community and Government Affairs Associate Joannette Vruala in announcing the 6th Annual fundraising Aruba Way Fun Walk/Run will take place this year on Saturday, September 10.

During the announcement at the Renaissance Convention Center yesterday afternoon, FAA Officer Dilma Arends – Geerman expressed her gratitude to the Valero Volunteers and Aruba Way Foundation for selecting their cause to be the beneficiary of this year's

fundraising effort. Caribbean Mercantile Bank, represented by Armin Solognier, has sponsored the tee shirts that are distributed to all who register. Funds raised by the walk will go towards materials for Assistive Technology to be used at schools and doctors' offices, training for parents and professionals dealing with Autistic children and for a media campaign to raise awareness in recognizing signs of Autism. This year's slogan is "Autism Awareness: Different but not less!"

Since its inception the

Cholera cases in DR Congo top 5,000

KINSHASA (AFP) - A cholera outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has infected more than 5,000 people and caused nearly 300 deaths since March, the United Nations said yesterday. Bandundu, Equateur and Province Orientale are the worst-hit regions.

"The 5,000 mark was reached this week with 5,088 reported cases of cholera, including 296 deaths," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

Cholera is a highly contagious intestinal infection that can kill if not treated properly.

Aruba Way Fun Walk/Run has donated their annual proceeds to Red Cross Aruba, White-Yellow Cross Aruba, Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation, the Edmund Harms Foundation, Give a Hand to Help our Children, Fundashon Respetami, which battled child abuse and Family Planning. Proceeds from the first walk in 2006 were 6,250 Aruban florins; the yearly increase in participation and donations resulting in a total of 38,250 Aruban florins in 2010.

Groups, families, companies, all are welcome to join the walk through the Lago colony, which will begin in the parking lot of the former International School building at 5:00 PM. Price for registration, is 5 Aruban florins per person. For more information and registration visit the IDEFRE office in Certified Mega Mall or call them at 582-4987 or e-mail arubawayfunwalk@valero.com

by Rosalie Klein

Underground parking may be an option near City Hall Building



ORANJESTAD -- The new City Hall complex will be a modern annex to the existing complex which together will be capable of housing nine ministers, according to Minister of Infrastructure Benny Sevinger. The entire project has been submitted to FDA for approval. Local construction company Albo is the contractor for the 18 million Aruban florins project.

The interior of the old building will be gradually restored. They are currently working on the section where Minister de Meza's office is located. It is expected that within a month this section should be completed.

The new complex is designed to house nine ministers along with their advisors. There will be four extra offices added for this purpose. The design of the complex was done by architects Leo Ponson and Hoevertsz who were inspired by the form of the "cocolishi" (a small shell common here on Aruba). The structure will take into account "green energy" which the government has been requiring of late for their buildings.

One of the aspects under discussion is what to do about parking. One of the options is to design parking space under the building. This can be extremely costly, but they are studying the possibility, making certain adjustments to the

plans to see if somehow they could incorporate such a parking area in the overall plan.

Another project to begin shortly, according to Minister Sievinger is the beautification beginning from Plaza Henny Eman up to the building that once housed the Tourism Office across from the Renaissance Hotel. The sidewalks will be replaced and there will be plants along the road. Yesterday they met with contractors to explain the project in preparation for the public bidding which is to take place shortly. They are working on a design for the former Ports Office and the former Museum Building which will be part of the January budget. The intention is to maintain the original structure of these buildings. They will ultimately be dedicated to our local artists and craftsmen.

There is a restaurant in the heart of the historic area. They are currently talking to the owners and most probably will purchase the complex and have the restaurant relocated to another suitable site. The other building further up could be incorporated into the Office of the Census Bureau which will be a decision to be made by the Office of Monuments.

The buildings at the back are monumental buildings which will have to be properly maintained by their owners.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Banks lead US and European stock plunge

LONDON, England (AFP) - Stocks fell at great speed in Europe and on Wall Street yesterday, with bank shares leading the selloff amid new concern over Greece, and talk of danger for France's credit rating which was immediately denied.

The slump of up to six percent in Europe and more than four percent on Wall Street, coupled with a record rise of gold, came only a day after markets soared on signals by the US Federal Reserve that it would hold ultra-low interest rates for another two years.

But the relief rally quickly lost steam and stocks resumed a plunge that has in recent days seen many European markets lose over a tenth of their value in a sell-off triggered by concerns over debt and an economic slowdown.

Sovereign debt worries were amplified yesterday by a Fitch downgrade of Cyprus and comment that the euro-zone nation would need an EU bailout. This came only days after the historic downgrade of the US credit rating by Standard & Poor's.

In foreign exchange deals, the dollar steadied against the

euro, after having earlier slid on the Federal Reserve news. The European single currency dipped to \$1.4191 from \$1.4374 in New York late Tuesday.

The dollar slid against the Japanese unit, buying 76.45 yen compared to 76.94 on Tuesday.

US asks China to explain why it needs aircraft carrier

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it would like China to explain why it needs an aircraft carrier amid broader US concerns about Beijing's lack of transparency over its military aims.

"We would welcome any kind of explanation that China would like to give for needing this kind of equipment," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters when asked whether the carrier would raise regional tensions.

"This is part of our larger concern that China is not as transparent as other countries. It's not as transparent as the United States about its military acquisitions, about its military budget," she said.

"And we'd like to have the

kind of open, transparent relationship in military-to-military affairs," Nuland said.

"In our military-to-military relations with many countries around the world, we have the kind of bilateral dialogue where we can get quite specific about the equipment that we have and its intended purposes and its intended movements," she said.

But China and the United States are "not at that level of transparency" to which the two nations aspire, Nuland added.

The comments came hours after China's first aircraft carrier embarked on its inaugural sea trial, a move likely to stoke concerns about the nation's military expansion and growing territorial assertiveness.

Britons call for looters to lose benefits

LONDON, England (AFP) - An online petition calling for looters and rioters to have their state welfare handouts withdrawn has proved so popular that the British government website hosting it crashed yesterday.

More than 78,000 people had signed the petition by the time it crashed, amid a growing sense of a popular fight-back against the wave of lawless violence that has swept

across English cities this week. If 100,000 people sign the petition, it would trigger a process that could end with lawmakers voting in parliament on the plan.

"No taxpayer should have to contribute to those who have destroyed property, stolen from their community and shown a disregard for the country that provides for them," the petition reads.

Demands to grow for UN peacekeepers, says outgoing chief

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Growing international instability and economic crisis will place greater demands on UN peacekeeping even as it tries to wind down operations, the outgoing head of the 120,000-strong global force said.

Conflicting pressures on the UN missions were evident during an interview with Alain Le Roy, head of the \$8 billion budget peacekeeping division, from the New York office he left Wednesday.

On one side of the building was a demonstration by Sudanese calling for UN intervention in the troubled state of South Kordofan. On the other, Haitians demanded an end to

But it has also just started two new missions with 4,200 Ethiopian troops heading for Sudan's troubled Abyei region and 7,000 to go to the new country of South Sudan.

Liberia seizes 'worrisome' amount of arms, ammunition

MONROVIA, Liberia (AFP) - Liberia has seized a "worrisome" amount of arms and ammunition in the south of the country near the border with Ivory Coast, an official told a press conference yesterday.

"The Bureau of Immigration with maximum support from the Ministry of Justice was successful in retrieving a cache of arms and ammunition through the cooperation of some ex-combatants," Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization commissioner Chris Massaquoi told journalists.

He did not give details about the former combatants who he said collaborated with state security authorities to find the weapons.

But he added: "This discovery of weapons is worrisome".

The weapons were found in the counties of River Gee, Maryland, Grand Gedeh and Nimba. Some of the weapons were displayed during the press conference.

They included rockets, machine guns and assault rifles and a large amount of ammunition.

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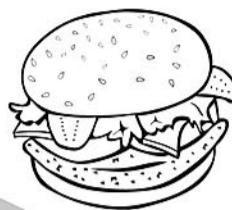
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Investigation into the possible drowning of an American woman



ORANJESTAD -- On August 2, 2011 at about 6.23 PM (local time) 911 received notification of a possible drowning of a woman. The traveling companion of this woman, a man G.V.G. stated that they were going snorkeling behind Nanki Country Club and that at a given moment he had signaled his friend to swim back to the beach. He stated further that the woman had not reached the beach together with him and apparently had remained in the water.

The American woman in question is R.G. age 35, the man is indicated as G.V.G. age 50, also an American.

In spite of intense searches during a number of days by

Suspect's lawyer: 'there's no proof'

The attorney for G.V.G held for the disappearance at sea of R.G. claimed yesterday that there is no evidence that his client committed murder.

"They suspect murder but there's no proof, to my knowledge," said Michael Lopez, G.V.G's attorney in Aruba. "I don't see any proof. There's no proof and no motive."

amongst others the surveillance department and the detective department of the Aruban Police, the Aruban Maritime Police, the Coast Guard, Search and Rescue Divers and volunteer divers of Jads and the use of two helicopters, an airplane and several boats, until now the woman has not been found in sea or on the shore.

The statements made by the traveling companion led to such questions that on Friday, August 5, 2011 it was decided to detain him for further questioning on the possible drowning of the woman.

At this moment the detective department of the Aruban Police is conducting an investigation into these matters.

ORANJESTAD -- In a recent press conference the Prime Minister intimated that the government had made a request to the Supreme Consultative Council for advice regarding the minimum wage.

The Prime Minister in-

Change in oil product prices

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Information - BUVO - informs to the general public that, as of yesterday, Wednesday, August 10, the prices of different oil products has changed.

Gasoline unleaded-premium per liter	+ 8.0 cents	243.0 cents
Dieel LS per liter	+ 4.4 cents	211.1 cents
Kerosine per liter	+ 3.7 cents	207.8 cents

The Ministry of Economic, Social and Culture Affairs also that the government has maintained the reduction of excise duty to absorb the increase of price of May 2007. The abovementioned prices include BBO taxes.



The International Market basically dictates the price of gas

ORANJESTAD -- In order for Aruba to stipulate the price of gasoline, our Department of Economic Affairs has entered into a subscription from Platts, which is a company that provides us with a daily briefing of the market with respect to petroleum products. With the information received from Platts the Department of Economic Affairs takes the average price of those products used here on Aruba, which is the price of gasoline, Kerosene and low sulfur diesel. These use the cotization of the US Gulf Coast and they derive at the daily average of these three products. This is done every

day for the whole month until they can arrive at the monthly average. This is then added to a structure with fixed components in order to obtain a price.

In the pricing structure there are, for example, transportation charges, insurance and the subsidy for cooking gas. The subsidy entails that for every liter of gasoline sold 1.5 cents will be put into a special fund in order to keep the price of LPG as low as possible.

Working from within the context of the above structure, a profit margin is added and the BBO in order to arrive at the price of gasoline sold to suppliers who deliver this to

the gas pumps. Here again the BBO is added and the margin of profit is added in order to arrive at the price that the consumer pays.

The calculation of the price of petroleum products is as follows. As an example we can use the price that was implemented on Tuesday 10th of August. This entails that which took place on June 31 to July 31. The result of the monthly average was entered into the price structure and the price was published on August 10th. The effect of what took place in the market today will have no bearing on the price of August 10th, that will be added to the price of the month of September. Hence, if the price drops on the international market today, the effect will be felt one month later.

Another aspect is the price of a barrel of fuel oil and the price of refined gasoline or refined diesel do not run parallel. Even though last year the price of a barrel was 100 dollars and this year it has remained at 100 dollars a barrel, the price at the pump did not remain unchanged. This is because there are many factors which influence the price.

Government requests advice from Supreme Consultative Council

on prospective minimum wage increase

formed the press that in view of the very difficult economic situation worldwide felt here on Aruba as well, that that is what forced them to create a system for the increase of the water and electricity tariffs that would not affect one half of our population.

What the Prime Minister did not explain however is how those same 50% of the population will have to deal with the 12.5% increase that will be added to the many other commodities like meat, milk, vegetables, food, clothing, etc.

Exceptional Corinto wines from Chile are featured at Salt & Pepper Restaurant



Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden is offering exceptionally good wines from Chile on special these coming weeks. The name: Corinto, named after a tiny village in the Valle Central near Santiago de Chile. The wines, a Sauvignon Blanc, a Chardonnay, a Merlot and a Cabernet Sauvignon, are sold by the glass as well as by the bottle and a special tasting for Salt & Pepper's staffers had been organized by importer Govert van der Hout of Arion Wine Company to let them taste the wonderful end product of the varietals.

"The Corinto wines stand out because of their excellent price-quality ratio," explained vinologist Mr. van der Hout, as he demonstrated a few fun

ways to open a twist-capped bottle of wine. "Even though they are young wines, they are certainly no lightweights." Proof of that is the 83 pt. rating by the Wine Spectator of the 2010 crisp and fruity Sauvignon Blanc.

The Corinto Chardonnay is somewhat fuller, rounder and creamier in taste; it would pair really well with grouper in a creamy sauce. The Merlot 2010 was pronounced surprisingly soft and easy to drink, while the spicier 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon received top marks from the ladies present.

The Corinto tasting precedes six weeks of Chilean delight at Salt & Pepper Tapas and more Restaurant.

Aruba says 'Masha danki'



Recently ATA rep Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say 'Masha Danki' for choosing Aruba year after year as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor of Aruba" and 20+years "Good-will Ambassador of Aruba." The honorees are: Trevor and Alison Foster, Shaughnessy Foster and Trinity Foster from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Michael and Meredith Dailey from Cranberry, Pennsylvania and Thomas and Marilyn Fitzpatrick from Brooklyn, New York as Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. Photo shows the honorees proudly showing off their certificates accompanied by ATA rep Ms. Marouska Heyliger Mrs. Gail Sahit-Mahabeer from the Marriott Ocean Club.

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Government requests advice . . .

Continued from page 3

Because it is no secret that those who will be paying the 12.5% increase will undoubtedly pass this along to the consumer. So, they will not be paying it on their water and electricity bills, but on their grocery bills...so, in essence they have only shifted to the increase elsewhere!

The government has implemented several benefit programs to assist those most vulnerable in our community. This, they claim is in an effort to ensure a solid foundation for growth which must be enjoyed by all.

The government requested advice regarding the minimum wage for 2012, since it has been two years since this was last increased. It was for this reason that the government instituted the "reparatie-toeslag," (assistance stipend), and the school age child allowance. These allowances are a means to compensate for the lack of an increase in the minimum wage.

The Supreme Council advised the government to consider the matter of minimum wage increase in the next National Social Dialogue. According to Eman, that discussion will be a very interesting one in their effort to fight for socio-economical progress for our people.

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Island artist Edwin Gomes presents Centro di Pesca Hadicurari with a handsome painting

Recently, Mr. Edwin "Eddy" Gomes in appreciation for Fisherman's Day activities, presented the Hadicurari Fishing Center with a handsome painting, and handicraft work he created. Mr. Gomes was inspired after he assisted with this year's Fisherman's Day, taking place last June, which he found so very enjoyable.

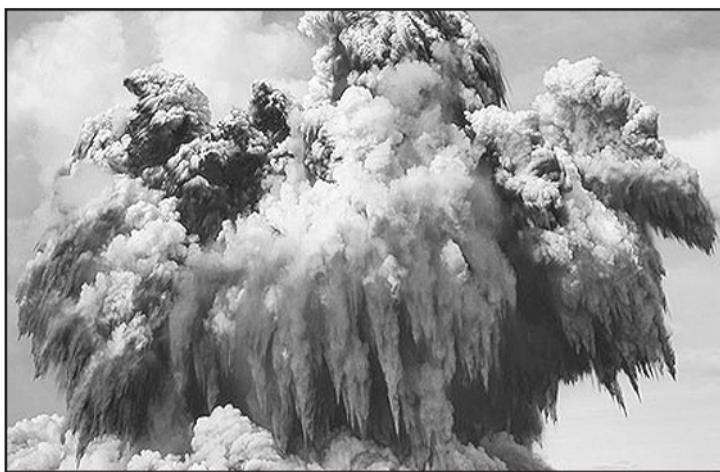
Being a fisherman and a member of Hadicurari since its founding, Eddy appreciates very much the magnitude of organizing such extensive activities, and wished to commemorate the hard work of those involved.

Mr. Gomes, in the presence of his sons Darwin and Darling, presented his artistic art work to a Centro Hadicurari representative, Dr. Byron Boekhoudt. All work was created and crafted by him personally, made completely of recycled material.

Mr. Boekhoudt thanked Mr. Gomes for this beautiful gesture and assured him that his artworks will be displayed in a prominent place at Hadicurari Center, situated on the second floor of the building between Marriott Surf Club and MooMba Beach Bar and Grill.



Sci-Tech

US scientists predict eruption of undersea volcano

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US scientists said Tuesday they have for the first time successfully predicted the eruption of one of the world's most active undersea volcanoes off the coast of the western state of Oregon.

Scientists from Oregon and New York have been monitoring Axial Seamount, 250 miles (400 kilometers) out to sea, since it last erupted in 1998, and predicted it would again before 2014.

On an expedition to the area on July 29, researchers using a remotely operated robot discovered a lava flow that was not there the year before, and began noticing that the entire area looked unfamiliar.

"When we first arrived on the seafloor, we thought we were in the wrong place, because it looked so completely different," said Bill Chadwick, an Oregon State University geologist who co-authored a 2006 study that forecast another eruption by 2014.

"We couldn't find our markers or monitoring instruments or other distinctive features on the bottom."

The team was using bottom pressure sensors, the same tools used to monitor the sea floor for potential tsunamis after an earthquake. A couple of their recording instruments soon turned up, and scientists determined that the eruption happened on April 6.

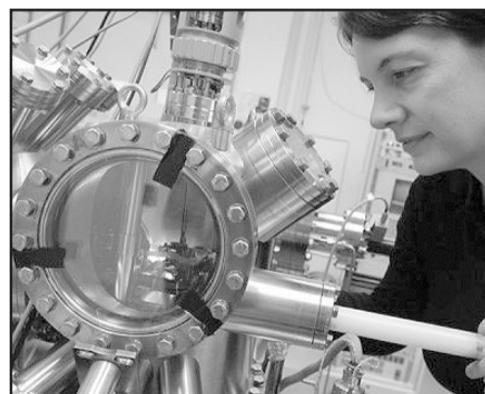
The team was excited at the discovery, but cautioned that most volcanoes remain highly volatile.

"Forecasting the eruption of most land volcanoes is normally very difficult at best, and the behavior of most is complex and variable," said Scott Nooner, a geophysicist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

"We now have evidence that Axial Seamount behaves in a more predictable way than many other volcanoes."

Researchers were watching the level of the volcanic crater, or caldera, rise after its last eruption at a rate of about 15 centimeters (six inches) per year as it inflated with accumulating magma, and predicted it would erupt again when it reached its 1998 level.

"The acid test in science -- whether or not you understand a process in nature -- is to try to predict what will happen based on your obser-

Quantum super-computing sees microwave breakthrough

GREEN TIP
Australian professor Michelle Simmons observes the world's smallest quantum transistor in Sydney in 2010. US physicists yesterday discovered a microwave method to excite atoms to a quantum condition, potentially enabling quantum computers to be as tiny as small book.

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ties have already earned them the nickname of "super-computers on steroids."

Atoms can be excited to a quantum condition using microwaves, an advance over larger and bulkier lasers, until now the only way to achieve this essential state, they said.

In theory, it means that quantum computers -- if they are commercially feasible -- could be as tiny as a small book, the team reported in *Nature*, the British science journal.

"It is conceivable a modest-sized quantum computer could eventually look like a smart phone combined with a laser pointer-like device," said Dietrich Leibfried of the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

"Sophisticated machines might have an overall foot-

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Anonymous hackers pledge to destroy Facebook on November 5

Members of the hacker collective Anonymous have already been linked to attacks on financial institutions and even the federal government, so it should come as no surprise that the world's largest social network, Facebook, would eventually become a target. The group has released a video statement announcing that on November 5, the network will be destroyed.

Anonymous has taken issue with Facebook's well-publicized privacy issues,

and claims that the company sells information to government agencies for the purpose of spying. The video also states "Everything you do on Facebook stays on Facebook regardless of your privacy settings, and deleting your account is impossible, even if you delete your account, all your personal info stays on Facebook and can be recovered at any time."

The chosen date of November 5 carries some significance to the group, as it was

on that date in 1605 when Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators attempted to blow up the British House of Lords and kill King James. The anti-government vigilante known as "V" in the movie and comic series *V for Vendetta* wears a mask bearing Fawkes' likeness. V has become a mascot for Anonymous, and members often wear a similar mask when attending public protests and other organized events.

Facebook is well known for employing skilled computer gurus, and the company holds regular "Hackathons" for its programmers to keep their skills sharp. Anonymous has now given the company months of advance notice to prepare for the attack, so when November 5 eventually rolls around, it will be interesting to see if Facebook crumbles or comes out on top.

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Child's face restored after accident, a first in Mexico



Mexican boy Raul Carrizales Jaramillo (C) with his mother Asuncion Jaramillo Gonzalez (R) and his sister Yesenia, at a hospital after undergoing reimplant surgery.

MONTERREY (AFP) - Surgeons have re-attached a large part of the face of a seven

year-old child torn in a pitbull attack, Mexico's state-run Social Security Institute said Tuesday. "This is the first facial re-implant that has been successfully carried out in the country," said Juan Francisco Salazar, an Institute spokesman in the northern state of Nuevo Leon.

Raul Carrizales, age seven, was attacked by a pitbull on June 26 in the city of Monterrey. The fierce dog tore off

a large portion of his lower face.

A neighborhood watchman who saw the attack picked up the piece of the boy's face and put it in a plastic bag, and then in a container with water and ice, which allowed surgeons to later fix the boy's face.

The operation on Carrizales took nearly six hours and involved two general surgeons, two plastic surgeons, two nurses and an anesthesiologist, Salazar said.

"The next step is rehabilitation, so that he will again have feeling and movement in his face," Salazar added.

DNA blood tests can tell baby's sex at 7 weeks: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Tests that measure DNA in a pregnant woman's blood work well for telling the sex of a baby after seven weeks' gestation without posing danger to the fetus, a US study said Tuesday.

The meta-analysis of previous studies on the topic suggests that using cell-free fetal DNA from the mother's blood is more accurate than a urine test or sonogram and is safer than amniocentesis.

It can also be done earlier than an ultrasound, which is usually accurate from 11 to 14

weeks, or amniocentesis, which samples fluid from the sac surrounding the fetus and carries a small risk of miscarriage.

"The availability of a reliable noninvasive alternative to determine fetal sex would reduce unintended fetal losses and would presumably be welcomed by pregnant women carrying fetuses at risk for disorders," said the study in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The review included 57 studies, representing 3,524

male-bearing pregnancies and 3,017 female-bearing pregnancies, and found an accuracy rate of 95 to nearly 99 percent.

The technology to detect cell-free circulating Y-chromosome DNA sequences in the plasma of pregnant women has been around since 1997.

Many countries in Europe, including France, Spain, Britain and the Netherlands, routinely offer the test to pregnant women.

Some companies also sell the tests to consumers over the Internet.

Long work hours linked to alcohol abuse: study

WELLINGTON (AFP) - Long working hours can more than triple the risk of alcohol abuse and addiction, New Zealand research has found.

An Otago University study of more than 1,000 people aged 25-30 found a statistically significant link between the amount of hours worked and alcohol abuse.

"Individuals working 50

or more hours per week had rates of alcohol-related problems that were 1.8 to 3.3 times higher than those for individuals who were not employed," study leader Sheree Gibb said.

The research, to be published in the British peer-reviewed journal "Addiction", found the figures were similar for males and females.

Gibb said increased alco-

hol abuse among those who worked long hours might be an attempt to reduce stress associated with their jobs.

She also suggested that social contact with workmates might make people more likely to abuse alcohol.

Gibb said the study showed there was a need for anti-alcohol abuse programs targeting people who worked long hours.

Attacks on health workers affect "millions": Red Cross



GENEVA (AFP) - Large numbers of people die in conflicts not only because they are the victims of attacks, but because they are prevented from getting proper health care, the Red Cross said Wednesday.

A study by the International Committee of the Red Cross, conducted in 16 countries, found that "millions" of lives could be spared if attacks on healthcare workers and facilities did not occur.

"The most shocking finding is that people die in large numbers not because they are direct victims of a roadside bomb or a shooting," Robin Coupland, who led the study and worked as a war surgeon for seven years, told reporters.

"They die because the ambulance does not get there in time, because health-care personnel are prevented from doing their work, because hospitals are themselves targets of attacks or simply because the

environment is too dangerous for effective health care to be delivered," he explained.

Yves Daccord, the ICRC director-general, said that "violence that prevents the delivery of health care is currently one of the most urgent yet overlooked humanitarian tragedies."

"The human cost is staggering: civilians and fighters often die from their injuries simply because they are prevented from receiving timely medical assistance," he said.

As examples, Daccord cited "hospitals in Sri Lanka and Somalia that have been shelled, ambulances in Libya shot at, paramedics in Colombia killed, and wounded people in Afghanistan forced to languish for hours in vehicles held up in checkpoint queues."

"The issue has been staring us in the face for years. It must end," he added.



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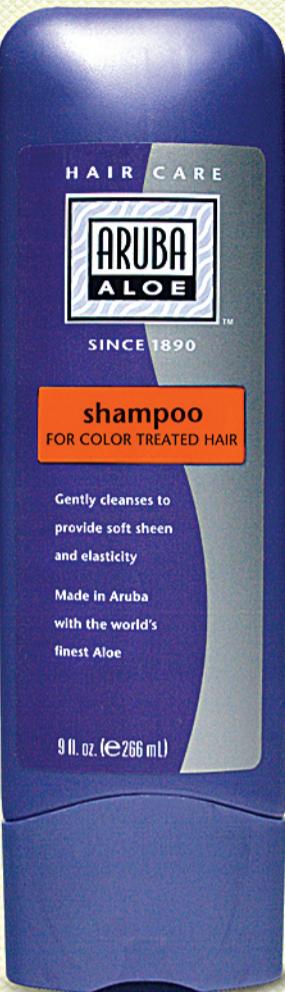
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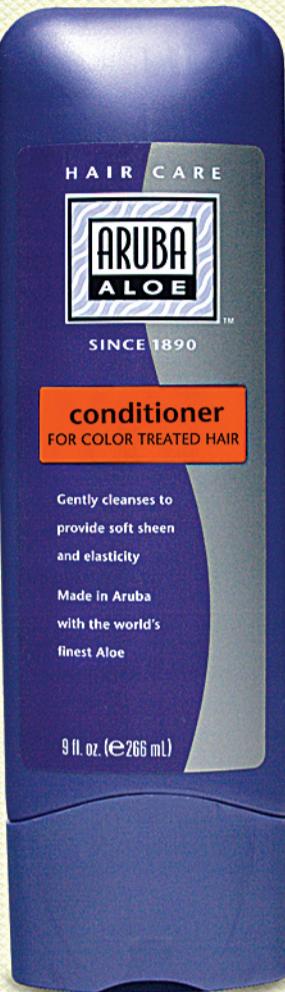
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CLIA's 2011 Cruise Market Profile Study Reports Positive Consumer Attitudes

High Satisfaction, Increased Awareness and Strong Future Intent to Cruise Among Key Findings

By CLIA press release

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida - According to the latest consumer survey prepared for Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), Americans are not only increasingly aware of cruise vacations but strongly interested in either a repeat cruise or trying one for the first time.

In a U.S. population of 304 million, 73 million Americans have cruised before and 36.1 million, from a core target market (25+ years of age, \$40,000+ household income) of 133 million, reported that they are "likely" to take a cruise vacation in the next three years. Consistent with previous years' studies, the "2011 Cruise Market Profile Study," conducted by TNS also found that a significant majority of consumers – 94 percent – rate cruising as a satisfying vacation experience with 45 percent rating a cruise as "extremely satisfying," making a cruise vacation a satisfaction leader among vacation

choices.

The study surveyed over 1,300 past cruisers and non-cruisers to determine vacation preferences and attitudes, plans for future vacationing, spending patterns, travel agent usage, and other topics, drawing comparisons among numerous types of vacations, including cruises.

"Based on analysis of responses to the Cruise Market Profile Study, the cruise industry can be optimistic about its continued growth and success," said Christine Duffy, CLIA's CEO and President. "CLIA member lines have had an average annual passenger growth rate of more than seven percent since 1980. In 2010, capacity increased by 8.1 percent yet CLIA member line ships continued to operate at 103.1 percent occupancy. The reasons for this success, I think, are reflected in what consumers are telling us about their attitudes toward vacationing and cruising in particular.

In a nutshell, the cruise industry continues to innovate and deliver on the cruise product promise, with the result that millions of Americans are intending to take a cruise in the near future."

Among the highlights of the 2011 Cruise Market Profile:

Cruise Intentions and Attitudes

• Based on responses to the survey, 36 million Americans (25 years+, \$40K+ income) have an intention to cruise in the next three years, up from 33 million in the 2008 study and 31 million in 2006.

• Seventy-seven percent of past cruise vacationers expressed interest in a cruise vacation in the next three years and 50 percent of non-cruise vacationers expressed an interest in taking their first cruise within the next three years.

• Cruise vacation satisfaction remains high and is a driver of repeat cruise busi-

ness. Overall satisfaction rates are 94 percent and, compared to other vacations, cruise vacations are among the leaders in "extreme satisfaction" (45 percent).

• People view all vacation categories as somewhat expensive but most people view cruise vacations as a superior value. Nearly twice as many (17 percent) equate cruising with very high value as land-based vacations (9 percent). Among past cruise vacationers, the gap swells (21 percent vs. 8 percent) as a result of past experience.

• Awareness of the cruise vacation experience is high and growing. Thirty-two percent of the study's representative sample cites increased awareness of cruise vacations in the past year or two – four times as many who expressed decreased awareness (eight percent).

• Of respondents who provided information about their last cruise, 60 percent have

cruised in the past and 40 percent claimed their last cruise was their first cruise, indicating that the cruise industry continues to attract new guests.

• The total study sample (cruisers and non-cruisers) ranked the following as "much better/somewhat better" for cruises compared to all other vacation categories:

* Chance to visit multiple destinations (56 percent)

* Being pampered (44 percent)

* Fine dining (51 percent)

* Just getting away from it all (44 percent)

• While varying by cruise line and market segment, the top ten list of where consumers plan to take their next cruise vacation includes: 1. Caribbean, 2. Alaska, 3. Bahamas, 4. Hawaii, 5. Bermuda, 6. Mediterranean/Greek Isles, 7. Europe, 8. Panama Canal, 9. Canada/New England, 10. Mexico.

Leonid Kozlov and Sophie Greenbaum

The making of a star



working under Leonid's watchful eye

Among Aruba's many part-time celebrity residents is former Bolshoi Ballet star and Creative Director of the New Jersey Ballet, Leonid Kozlov. He and his ballerina wife, Adriana, own a home on Aruba to which they retreat as frequently as possible, to relax and unwind. For the past four years, they have staged the Christmas favorite, "The Nutcracker" to the delight of residents and island visitors.

Leonid and Adriana are back for their summer break, but it is a "busman's holiday" as they are also working with

Leonid's young protégé, Sophie Greenbaum, who he believes has the talent and determination to be a great prima ballerina. Each day he spends hours coaching Sophie on the stage of the Occidental Grand Resort, where they have performed "The Nutcracker" over the past two holiday seasons.

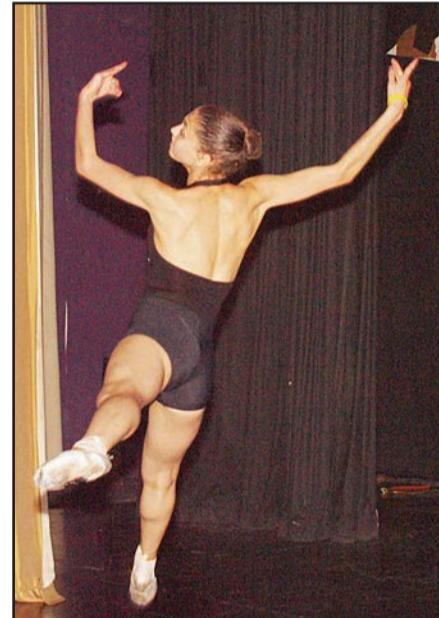
"People often do not realize what it takes to become a professional dancer," comments Leonid "the daily dedication to practice and improve while maintaining one's physical peak; Sophie has the will to

pursue this." Sophie's parents, Roe and Dennis, support her utterly in her dream; since she was 14, dance has completely dominated her life. She studies online to obtain her high school diploma but trains morning, noon and night, a total of over six hours a day. Mornings and evenings she takes private class with Leonid at his New Jersey studio and in the afternoons she joins the group sessions.

Sophie began dancing when she was four; she wanted some sort of organized physical outlet, but no sports particularly attracted her, so Roe suggested dance classes, which she loved. When she was 12, her school participated in the Youth Dance Festival of New Jersey, which is organized by Leonid, and when observing the quality of dance of his students, she knew she had to study with him if she was serious about her career. Since joining the company, she has been participating in the annual recital on Aruba.

"Becoming a professional ballet dancer is a full time occupation," acknowledges Sophie, "it is 24/7. I dance and workout every day; this is why I have come to Aruba to work with Mr. Kozlov during the summer vacation, there must be no breaks in my training, I understand and accept this."

Sophie prefers to dance classic ballet, such as the Bolshoi version of Swan Lake, which is harder find in most of today's dance companies. Leonid, who worked for several years with George Balanchine and the New York City Ballet, explained it is more difficult to find these days simply because of the expense. "The advantage of "contemporary" ballet is there are no elaborate and expensive sets and costumes, so much of the development of this presentation was



young talents, and this is what Leonid has in mind to showcase Sophie, who hopes for a place with the American Ballet Theater someday, and to perform what Adriana claims is the dream of every prima ballerina, both the White and Black Swan of Swan Lake. "Originally, the parts were performed by two dancers, as they call for one to be a gentle, sweet swan, the other sultry and aggressive. For one dancer to do both parts, and it has been done, is considered a great achievement."

"I believe Sophie is an example of what it takes to make it into the best ballet companies," explains Leonid, "she has not only the physical form, talent and grace, but she has that drive to devote her life to dance; I am sure the world will know her name someday."

Mr. Kozlov is working with Sophie daily from 2:00 to 4:00 PM; anyone interested in learning about the life of a dancer and what it takes to succeed, is welcome to come and quietly observe.

By Rosalie Klein



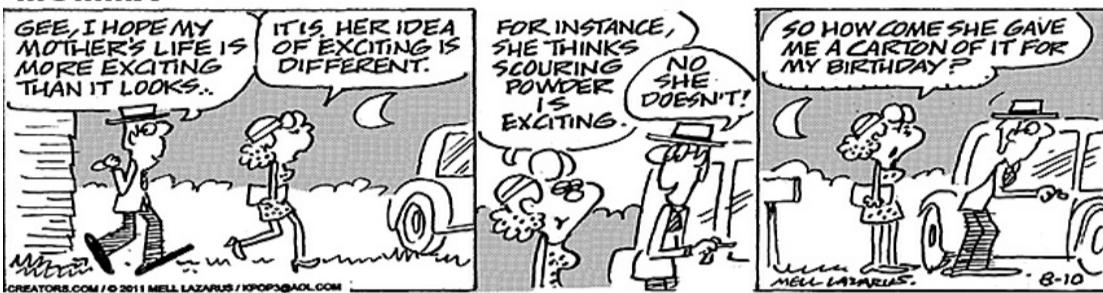
Leonid Kozlov, wife Adriana, Sophie and Mom, Roe

CO MICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



CROSSWORD



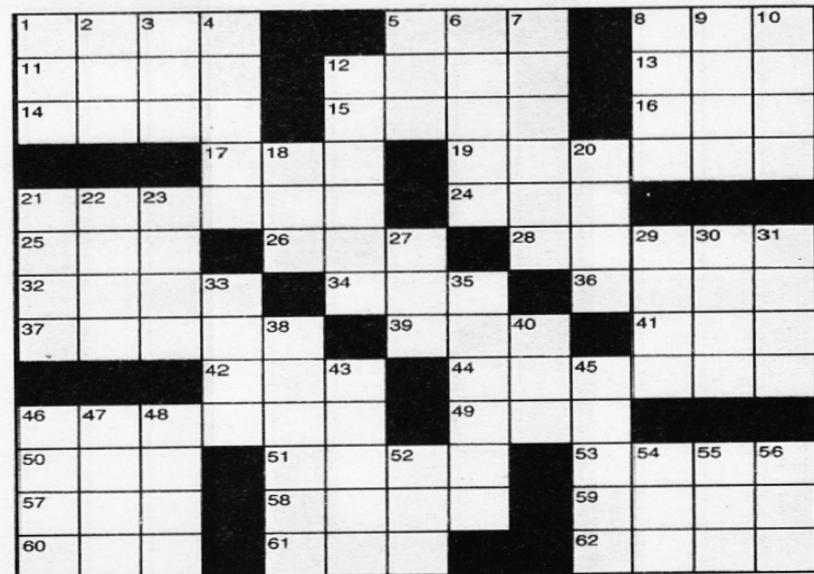
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Make a cake
5. "Just ___ suspected!" (2 wds.)
8. Wall and Main (abbr.)
11. "___ Old Cowhand" (2 wds.)
12. Snazzy
13. Doughboys' conflict (abbr.)
14. Earth
15. Grade
16. Partner of abet
17. Poem that praises
19. Dessert frostings
21. Shone
24. Catch a criminal
25. Wheel part
26. Sizable
28. Half quarts
32. French friends
34. ___ Mahal
36. "Let's Make a ___"
37. Theme
39. Peach's center
41. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
42. '30s relief agency (abbr.)
44. Kind of gravy
46. Ancient bone
49. May's season (abbr.)
50. Wanted poster initis.

DOWN

1. Cartoonist Keane ("The Family Circus")
2. Med. group
3. Topeka's st.
4. Make rich
5. "Just as I thought!"
6. Kind of protest (hyph.)
7. Polar feature
8. Goose's relative
9. Bit of kindling
10. Caesar et al.
12. ___ card (one way to pay)
18. Society gal
20. Footnote abbr.
21. Small weight
22. VIP's car
23. Exclude
27. Cumberland
29. Patricia of "Hud"
30. London gallery
31. Groove
33. Evil acts

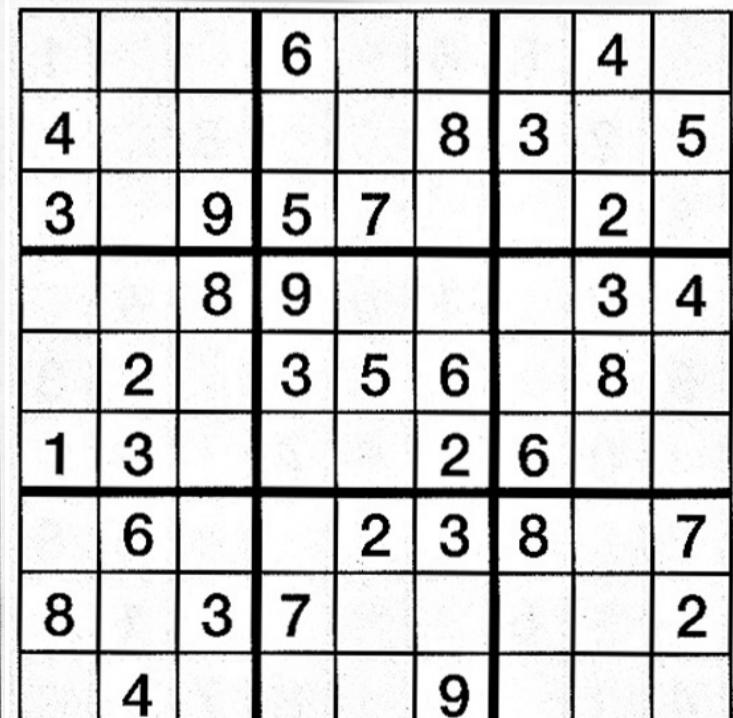


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SOLUTION

7	4	2	1	8	9	5	6	3
8	9	3	7	6	5	4	1	2
5	6	1	4	2	3	8	9	7
1	3	7	8	4	2	6	5	9
9	2	4	3	5	6	7	8	1
6	5	8	9	1	7	2	3	4
4	1	6	2	9	8	3	7	5
2	7	5	6	3	1	9	4	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Finance

ECLAC anticipates mild global recession with slower growth impact in Latam

-- The United Nations Economic Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC warned yesterday that markets' volatility will "persist" particularly because of the default-threat from several European countries.

"The danger is that the crisis expands to Italy and Spain" said Osvaldo Kacef, head of ECLAC's Economic Development Division adding that the most probable scenario is a slowdown of the global economy while the situation in the US and the European Union will have an impact mainly in Mexico and Central America.

The economist said that there is a strong risk of a recession in the European Union and the US and in this scenario "there won't be a major impact for Latin America until the end of 2012".

Similarly unemployment in the region which now stands at 7% will not continue to fall in 2012, but a major labour situation is not anticipated.

"There won't be a major impact on employment", insisted Kacef.

More specifically on the US, Kacef said that government-debt problems and a higher credit risk 'should not anticipate a situation of some magnitude.'

"The issue in the US does not have such an economic repercussion it's mainly political, although it sounds more spectacular than in Europe".

Nevertheless he admitted that "all this means we will

have a less dynamic business climate in the developing world" with an impact for Latin America.

"Obviously nobody is immune and it will have an impact on Latin American economies, but it will much depend on how exposed to the US and to Europe each country is," said Kacef meaning both trade and investment links.

In this framework "we could expect a flight of capital from the region, even when the latest data show that the inflow of capital to Latin America persists.

Kacef also anticipates that growth in Latin America and

the Caribbean will be in the range of 4% in 2012, which is slightly less than previous forecasts and coincides with estimates from other regional groups such as Mercosur and Unasur.

The Eclac economist revealed that the South American block will develop a "pro-active and pro positive attitude to strengthen relations with the US.

The statement is linked to the fact that Latin American region belongs to the short list of main US debt holders, (behind China), and any turmoil in the US could have an immediate effect on the region's assets.



PARIS, France -- Picture taken yesterday in Paris shows a woman looking at an financial application on her I phone. The turmoil on the financial markets has eased since the European Central Bank began buying Spanish and Italian bonds this week but investor jitters continue on fears the US and eurozone debt crises would spark a new recession.

(AFP PHOTO)

World oil prices climb on surprise drop in US crude reserves

LONDON, England (AFP) - Oil rose yesterday as traders digested news of a shock fall in American crude inventories, and after the Federal Reserve vowed to hold near-zero interest rates for the next two years.

But the energy market trimmed some of its earlier gains as traders fretted over the impact of ongoing global economic turmoil which has sent world stock markets plunging once again.

In late afternoon deals, Brent North Sea crude for Sep-

tember rose \$2.30 to \$104.85 per barrel, having earlier peaked at \$107.11.

And New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate light, sweet crude for delivery in September, gained \$1.92 to \$81.22. It had earlier leapt as high as \$82.90.

The US government's Department of Energy announced yesterday that American crude inventories tumbled by 5.2 million barrels in the week ending August 5.

EU offers 2.1 mn euros for E.coli research

BRUSSELS (AFP) -The EU is to invest 2.2 million euros in research on the new killer E.coli strain which infected almost 4,000 people and left 51 dead across Europe and caused massive losses to vegetable farmers.

The European Commission's decision Tuesday "to get as full a scientific picture as possible" of virulent Escherichia coli came as Russia lifted a costly ban slapped on EU vegetables over the row.

Russia, which imports a total 600 million euros (\$859 million) of European Union vegetables a year, introduced the ban June 2 after initial reports blamed European pro-

duce. The culprit was eventually found to be Egyptian fenugreek seeds.

Producers of cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, courgettes and sweet peppers, withdrawn from the market between late May and the end of June, have been promised 227 million euros in compensation.

Funds to put the new killer strain under the microscope are part of a 12-million-euro research programme to reinforce Europe's capacity for tackling pathogens.

"The research will focus on ways to prevent future epidemics and deal with new outbreaks," the commission said.

Euro slides back beneath

\$1.42



LONDON (AFP) -The European single currency sank back under \$1.42 on Wednesday as the foreign exchange market reacted nervously to market speculation of a French credit downgrade, which has been denied.

The shared eurozone unit fell as low as \$1.4163 at about 1410 GMT. It later pulled back to \$1.4178, down from \$1.4374 late in New York on Tuesday.

"The market's fretful mood was clearly evident in the way it reacted to rumours of a French bank downgrade," said Rabobank senior currency strategist Jane Foley, in reaction to the euro's steep drop.

"Exposure of French banks to peripheral debt is

perceived to be relatively high which has led to French government bonds under-performing core German and Dutch counterparts recently.

She added: "The vulnerability of core Europe appears to be opening up and this is illustrative of the fact that the sovereign debt crisis is entering its most critical phase to date."

France has "categorically" denied rumours it was heading for a downgrade of its AAA credit rating after the United States was stripped of its top rating by Standard & Poor's late last week.

The rival Fitch ratings agency on Wednesday confirmed that France was retaining its top triple-A credit rating amid rumours that it would lose the prized status.

In earlier trade, the euro had risen in value against the greenback, one day after the US Federal Reserve indicated it will keep interest rates on hold near zero for at least two years.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Have you had your breakfast today?

The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond, at right

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes that fit anyone's budget.

For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

Now they are serving you breakfast with an Aruban twist at bargain prizes.

Monica and Amarilis who have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.

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R-l, Monica and Amarilis with their fellow colleagues



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'Keep coming out', urges Malaysia's gay pastor



Malaysia's only openly gay pastor Reverend Ouyang Wen Feng poses for a picture

HONG KONG (AFP) - Malaysia's only openly gay pastor is urging homosexuals in the mainly Muslim country to "keep coming out" to help battle homophobia, as he gets set to tie the knot with his American partner.

Reverend Ouyang Wen Feng is a highly controversial figure who faced outrage and threats when he opened in 2007 the first gay-friendly church in conservative Malaysia, where sexual identity is a hot-button topic.

Homosexuality, still a crime punishable by 20 years in jail under Malaysian laws

banning sodomy, remains taboo across the racial and religious spectrum in Malaysia, which is home to large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

But Ouyang, a journalist-turned-pastor, said gay men and women should speak out to "break the vicious cycle" and help fight misunderstandings about the gay community.

"When society discriminates against gay people, you only push gay people into the closet," he told AFP in an interview last week on a visit to Hong Kong to launch a new book on homosexuality and Christianity.

"When gay people stay in the closet, people don't know what is gay or homosexuality and because of ignorance they keep discriminating and that will perpetuate prejudice," said the outspoken 41-year-old.

"Gay people cannot just blame straight people for not understanding us." Ouyang, wearing a flesh-coloured top with a crucifix and tattoos on his shoulder and arm, called on gay Malaysians to show their "true faces and tell them who we are".

Ouyang's own "coming out" took place in 2006 when he published the story of his decision to make public his sexual orientation, after a nine-year marriage to his now ex-wife, whom he described as an "angel".

"She encouraged me to come out. She asked for a divorce, and this is the biggest gift she could ever give me, she literally set me free," said the pastor, who grew up in a conservative Christian family.

Ouyang now lives in the United States, where he is pursuing his doctoral degree in theology, while teaching sociology at a college and works

as a staff pastor.

But he regularly returns to Malaysia and other parts of Asia to promote awareness of homosexuality. Also a prolific writer, he has published 23 books, about half delving into gay-related themes.

Ouyang said the church he co-founded, which has been operating quietly in suburban Kuala Lumpur, is "growing and developing" and continues to draw gay Christians for Sunday services and bible studies.

Ouyang has previously said the church -- which also embraces bisexual, transsexual and heterosexual people -- would help the gay community know they are "not alone in fighting the battle".

But influential Malaysian religious figures remain vehemently opposed to the growing prominence of the country's gay community, with a vocal Islamic cleric last year saying homosexuality was "going to destroy the world".

Authorities periodically raid gay-friendly bars or massage parlours, leaving some with a constant fear of persecution, while a prominent religious body in 2008 issued a

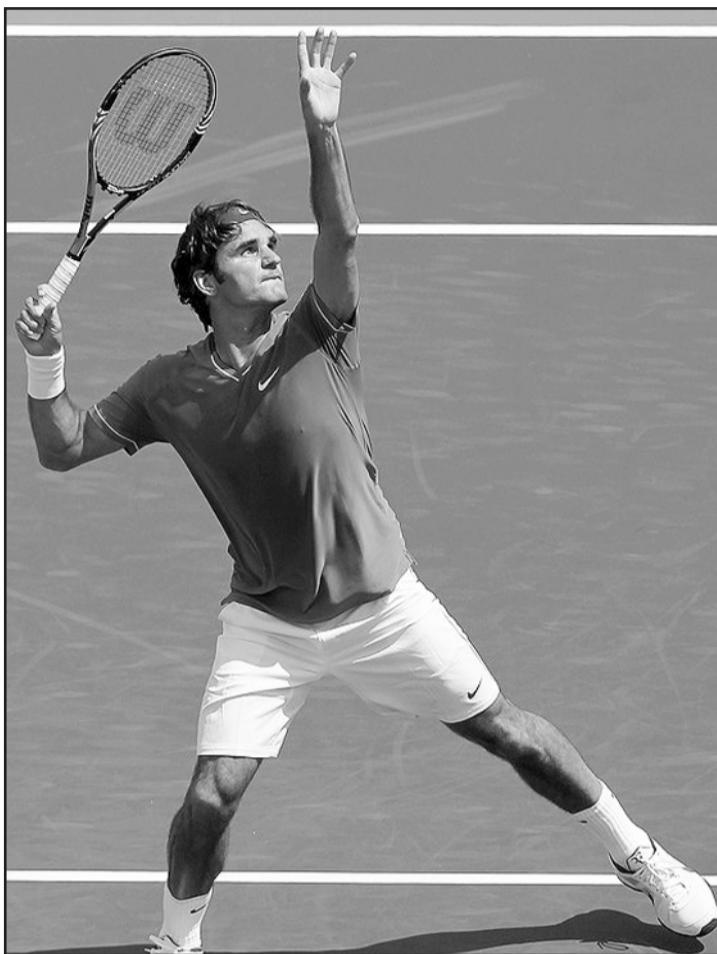
fatwa, or Islamic religious ruling, against lesbian sex.

Malaysia's opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim is currently on trial accused of sodomising a former aide, which he has repeatedly dismissed as trumped-up charges designed to prevent him from taking power.

Meanwhile Ouyang is set to wed his partner, an African-American Broadway musical producer, after the latter popped the question on June 26 -- two days after New York City legalised same-sex marriages.



Federer sets up Tsonga revenge match on return



MONTREAL (AFP) - Former world number one Roger Federer eased to a 7-5, 6-3 defeat of Canadian wild card Vasek Pospisil to move into the third round of the ATP Montreal Masters here on Wednesday and earn a re-

match with his Wimbledon conqueror Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

The 30-year-old Swiss, who is beginning his warm-up for the US Open later this month, showed little sign of rustiness as he was playing

for the first time since late June when he lost in the Wimbledon quarter-finals to Tsonga.

"It was tough conditions, it was quick and he had good crowd support," said Federer.

"He had nothing to lose. It was a tricky match for me to play today."

Federer needed 49 minutes to get on top of Pospisil in the opening set, but moved up a gear in the second to canter to victory and into a rematch with 13th seeded Tsonga, who beat Australian wild card Bernard Tomic 6-3, 7-6 (7/1).

Federer, who only required a modest four aces and two breaks of serve against his 155th-ranked opponent, said he was looking forward to playing Tsonga again.

"It depends on the conditions, we might play at night or during the day. At Wimbledon it was really a matter of our serves and forehands."

"He (Tsonga) served very well, and I was serving well, too. It was a matter of a couple of points."

Tsonga is taking nothing for granted as he meets his rival for the second time in six weeks.

"He's still the best player ever for me and it's still tough to play against him," said Tsonga.

"The wins I had in the past - he won a Montreal quarter-final two years ago against Federer - they will help me, of course."

"But I've lost against him (four) times," added the 26-year-old.

Federer, who is bidding for a third Canadian title after winning in 2004 and 2006, was joined by compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka in the third round, after the 26-year-old defeated American Michael Russell 6-3, 6-2 in just over an hour.

Seventh seed Tomas Berdych advanced as the Czech staged a comeback over Alexandr Dolgopolov 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 while number eight Nicolas Almagro out out Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-2, 7-6 (7/5).

Top seed and world number one Novak Djokovic was set to make his delayed start at the event he won in 2007 after his second-round match with veteran Russian Nikolay Davydenko was called off on Tuesday due to the weather.

Second seed Rafael Nadal was also due to begin his campaign with a second round clash with Croatian Ivan Dodig.



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England on top against India in third Test

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) - England enjoyed an excellent opening day in the third Test against India as they pursued a win that would see them replace the tourists at the head of the ICC's Test Championship table.

They closed on 84 without loss in reply to India's modest first innings 224, a deficit of 140 runs, at Edgbaston here on Wednesday.

England captain Andrew Strauss was 52 not out and fellow left-handed opener Alastair Cook 27 not out in front of a sell-out 25,000 crowd at Warwickshire's headquarters, redeveloped at a cost of £32 million (\$52 million).

Their unbroken stand rounded off a good day for England, already 2-0 up, as they pursued a victory that see them take the four-match series and go to the top of the Test standings.

Strauss, in what was his best Test score this season, set the seal on a fine first day for England shortly before stumps by completing a 76-ball fifty including 10 fours.

Earlier seamers Stuart Broad and Tim Bresnan, England's heroes with both bat and ball during their crushing 319-run second Test win at Trent Bridge, shared eight wickets after Strauss won the toss in overcast conditions.

Broad took four for 53 in 17 overs, with the fast-medium bowler dismissing

both Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar as the India stars managed just one run between them.

Meanwhile Bresnan, had four for 62 in 20 overs.

India coach Duncan Fletcher was left rueing his side's failure to be only one wicket down at lunch.

"We looked to be going all right at one down (for 59) but then England really put us on the back foot," said the former England boss.

The Zimbabwean added conditions this series were unlike any he'd previously experienced.

"I haven't played on three wickets, even when I was with England, where the ball has swung around so much for three Tests in a row.

"We haven't been able to post a score that gives our bowlers something to bowl at."

India have yet to make 300 this series but captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni prevented total embarrassment with a swashbuckling 77, featuring three sixes and 10 fours, after a top-order collapse reduced his side to 111 for seven.

Together with the resourceful Praveen Kumar, he added a run-a-ball 84 for the eighth wicket.

Kumar was no silent partner, hitting a six and four fours in his 26 before, trying to hook Bresnan, he was caught by wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

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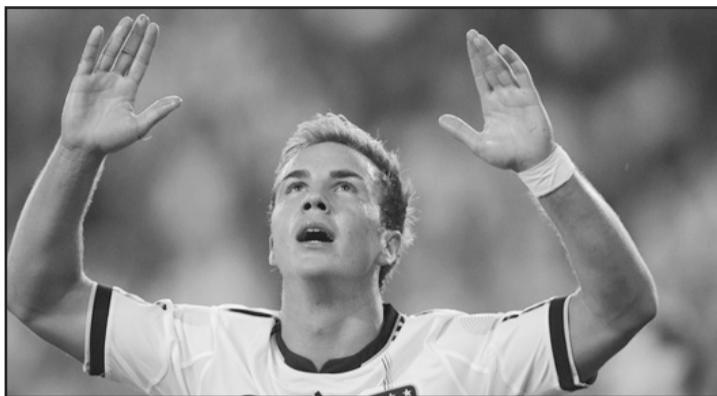
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Goetze dazzles as Germany slay Brazil



Germany's midfielder Mario Goetze celebrates scoring

STUTTGART (AFP) - Germany's young guns proved they are fast becoming a force to be reckoned with as they turned on the style to beat Brazil 3-2 here on Wednesday with rising star Mario Goetze in dazzling form.

This is the first time Germany have beaten Brazil for 18 years and only the fourth time the hosts have beaten the South American giants in 21 meetings.

After a goalless first 45 minutes, a second-half

penalty by Bayern Munich's Bastian Schweinsteiger and a superb individual effort from Goetze put the hosts ahead before Brazil's Robinho converted a penalty on 71 minutes.

The Germans made sure of victory when Bayer Leverkusen's Andre Shuerrle came off the bench to score the German's third on 80 minutes while Brazil's Neymar scored his side's second in the 92nd minute.

This was the first time the two teams have met since 2003 and with the game at Stuttgart's Mercedes-Benz-Arena being televised in 190 countries, it lived up to its billing as the clash of two of football's biggest names.

"I am personally pleased that I have so many options now," said Germany coach Loew after youngsters Goetze, Shuerrle, Toni Kroos and Thomas Mueller all shone with play-maker Mesut Ozil left out to recover after touring with Real Madrid.

Having crashed out of last month's Copa America after losing the quarter-final to Paraguay on penalties, Brazil coach Mano Menezes is under increasing pressure after one win in his last five games and back-to-back defeats.

Other friendly results:

Portugal 5, Luxembourg 0
Italy 2, Spain 1

Albania 3, Montenegro 2

Slovenia 0, Belgium 0

Germany 3, Brazil 2

Turkey 3, Estonia 0

Hungary 4, Iceland 0

Poland 1, Georgia 0

Austria 1, Slovakia 2

Liechtenstein 1, Switzerland 2

Norway 3, Czech Republic 0

Ukraine 0, Sweden 1

Ivory Coast 4, Israel 3

Belarus 1, Bulgaria 0

Russia 1, Serbia 0

Azerbaijan 0, Macedonia 1

Kazakhstan 1, Syria 1

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	71	43	.623	--
NY YANKEES	69	44	.611	1.5
TAMPA	60	54	.526	11.0
TORONTO	58	56	.509	13.0
BALTIMORE	44	68	.393	26.0
Central				
DETROIT	61	53	.535	--
CLEVELAND	56	56	.500	4.0
CHICAGO	56	58	.491	5.0
MINNESOTA	51	64	.443	10.5
KANSAS	49	66	.426	12.5
West				
TEXAS	65	51	.560	--
LA ANGELES	63	52	.548	1.5
OAKLAND	51	63	.447	13.0
SEATTLE	49	65	.430	15.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
PHILADELPHIA	75	40	.652	--
ATLANTA	67	49	.578	8.5
NY METS	57	57	.500	17.5
WASHINGTON	55	59	.482	19.5
FLORIDA	55	60	.478	20.0
Central				
MILWAUKEE	65	50	.565	--
ST. LOUIS	62	53	.539	3.0
PITTSBURG	55	59	.482	9.5
CINCINNATI	55	60	.478	10.0
CHICAGO	49	66	.426	16.0
HOUSTON	38	77	.330	27
West				
SAN FRANCISCO	63	53	.543	--
ARIZONA	62	53	.539	0.5
COLORADO	54	62	.466	9.0
LA DODGERS	52	62	.456	10.0
SAN DIEGO	51	65	.440	12.0

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Major drama set for PGA's formidable final four

ATLANTA (AFP) - Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and nearly every player in the 93rd PGA Championship expects the year's final major title to be decided on the formidable closing four holes at Atlanta Athletic Club.

The water-guarded 260-yard par-3 15th, narrow uphill par-4 476-yard 16th, tricky 207-yard par-3 17th and 507-yard, par-4 dogleg 18th with water left of the fairway and fronting the green will produce drama from today to Sunday.

"I don't think there's another stretch I can remember that's this difficult coming in," Woods said. "It's a hell of a test coming in but if you play those four holes a day even par, you will be picking up a ton of shots."

Defending champion Martin Kaymer of Germany would take 16 pars over four rounds on the pivotal stretch.

"The last four holes, they

are the key," Kaymer said. "They are very difficult. You are happy always if you get away with a par."

McIlroy, the Northern Irish prodigy whose US Open triumph drew comparisons to a youthful Woods, sees the finish as a place to lose shots rather than gain anything.

"You can make a few

birdies around the turn and then you've sort of just got to hang on for dear life coming in," McIlroy said, with the 15th meriting his special attention.

"If you make four 3s out there this week you're probably going to gain a couple of shots on the field."

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Tiger surprised by ex-caddie's comments

ATLANTA (AFP) - Tiger Woods said he was surprised at critical comments from Steve Williams, the caddie he fired last month after 12 years of being together, in the wake of a victory by his new employer.

Woods, speaking on the eve of Thursday's start to the 93rd PGA Championship, chose his words carefully and said little about the flap that began after Adam Scott won last week's World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational.

"I'm not going to speculate on Stevie," Woods said. "Those are obviously his feelings and his emotions and his decision to say what he wants to say."

Williams, a 47-year-old New Zealander who was bagman for Woods in 13 of his 14 major triumphs, said that carrying the clubs during Aussie Scott's WGC victory was "the best week of my life" and "most satisfying win".

"I have been caddying for 33 years, 145 wins, and that's the best win I've ever had," Williams added. "I sort of believe in destiny sometimes".

Woods said he sent Williams a congratulatory text message after the final round last Sunday.

"I was happy to see Stevie and Adam win. Adam has been a friend of mine, and same with Stevie," Woods said.



Asked if he and Williams had spoken or exchanged messages since Williams made his comments, Woods said, "I think that's between Stevie and myself."

Former World No. 1 Woods, now ranked 30th after missing much of this season with left leg injuries,

was 15 strokes back at the WGC event on a course where he had won seven times before with Williams as caddie.

Woods dodged the question when asked if Williams had been disloyal, having defined loyalty as trust earned over time, and again when asked if he regretted the way he split with Williams, which he said came face-to-face at last month's PGA National.

"Sometimes we all need changes and this was a change," Woods said. "I was at peace with it. It was a decision and a direction I wanted to go and that's it."

"All I can control is my life and how I feel. That's it. That's all I can do."

Woods confirmed that his agent, Mark Steinberg, met with Williams on Tuesday but would not elaborate on what messages might have been conveyed either way.

Shane Joel, an Australian who caddies for Woods' friend Mark O'Meara, was linked to possibly becoming the next full-time caddie for Woods in a report on The Golf Channel, and Woods said his name has come up in conversation.

"There's nobody I've committed to," Woods said. "Mark was nice enough to talk to me about it and said that Shane is available if I so choose. I'm focused on this (week). After this event I'll sit down and really look at it."

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